

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE MATTER OF THE	)	MISC. NO.: 3:23-cr-00174
APPLICATIONS OF THE UNITED	)	
STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE	)	
SEARCHES OF TWENTY-THREE	)	
PROPERTIES	)	
	)	

**ORDER TO SEAL**

This matter comes before the Court on motion of the United States to file the affidavit in support of the search warrants, and the respective motion to seal, under seal, with leave to provide redacted versions of the affidavit for the search warrants for public filing. The purpose of the Government's request is to protect the information contained within these documents as release of the information would jeopardize an ongoing investigation, reveal sensitive information about the nature and scope of the investigation, disclose the identity of cooperating sources and potential witnesses, and could result in the destruction of evidence or flight from prosecution.

Having conducted an independent review of the facts set forth in the affidavit in support of the search warrants as well as the reasons provided by the Government in its sealing motion, the Court concludes that the Government's significant countervailing interest in sealing outweighs the common-law public interest in access to such documents and that sealing the affidavit and attachments is "essential to preserve higher values." *See Media Gen. Operations, Inc. v. Buchanan*, 417 F.3d 424, 429-31 (4th Cir. 2005). The Court further concludes that, by redacting only portions of the affidavit in support of the search warrants as well as sealing only the motion to seal, and providing public access to the search warrants, the applications in support of the search warrants, and this sealing order, the denial of access is narrowly tailored to serve the government's

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interests in sealing. *Id.* at 429.

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that the interests of justice is best served by filing the affidavit, and the motion to seal, under seal, with leave to file a redacted affidavit for public filing. Working copies may be made available to the United States Attorney's Office, the United States Department of Agriculture, and any other law enforcement agency designated by the United States Attorney's Office.

Unless otherwise ordered, the documents sealed by this order shall remain sealed for one year from the date of this order, subject to extension for good cause shown and to the following unsealing protocol: Any person or party who seeks access to the documents sealed by this order may file a written motion or request to unseal. The Clerk of Court is directed to file any motion or request to unseal on the public docket. Regardless of when the motion or request is made, the documents sealed by this order shall remain sealed until the Government or other affected party has an opportunity to respond to any motion or request to unseal.

It is therefore ORDERED that the original affidavit in support of the search warrants, and the motion to seal, are to be filed under seal. It is further ORDERED that the Government shall provide redacted versions of the affidavit for a search warrants to the Clerk's office for public filing.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

  
HONORABLE PAIGE J. GOSSETT  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Columbia, South Carolina  
October 11, 2022